

**2016-17 World Series of Poker Circuit
Season 13
Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tulsa
Tulsa, Okla.
Event #1
No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack
Buy-In: \$365
Total Entries: 544
Prize Pool: \$163,200
March 16-17, 2017**



Jerry Rushing Wins First WSOP Circuit Ring in Tulsa

The Hard Rock Tulsa is hosting the Circuit for the first time.

Tulsa, Okla. (18 March 2017) – On Thursday, for the first time in World Series of Poker Circuit history, a Circuit event was played here in Tulsa. The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino is hosting the WSOP Circuit until March 27, and late Friday night, the first winner of the series was crowned. Jerry Rushing, a 57-year old from Oklahoma City, won the \$365 Monster Stack event, winning his first Circuit ring and pocketing \$34,280.

This is not only Rushing's first ring; it's also the first Circuit event he's ever played. "I'm excited," he said after the event. "I've played lots of tournaments, but this is the first one I won." In fact, the \$34,280 first-place prize exceeds his lifetime career earnings prior to the event.

Rushing faced a tough challenge on his way to earning the ring, particularly when he had only one opponent remaining. Rushing faced off against Chris Conrad, a familiar face on the Circuit who already has two rings on his resume. "The heads-up battle was tough, I gotta say that for sure," Rushing said of playing against Conrad. "I kept trying to mix my play up. He told me he won a few rings already, so I knew I was up against somebody who's played quite a bit."

After a final table that started moving quickly – the final nine players were whittled down to three in just four hours – the last couple eliminations proved difficult. "When we got down to the last three guys it was tough," Rushing said. "I had to play a very tight, very aggressive, very hands-off game before Bobby Randolph was eliminated in third place, and another hour before Rushing secured his victory."

Event #1 was the first event to play to completion at the WSOP Circuit at the Hard Rock Tulsa. The \$365 Monster Stack event drew a field of 544 players, generating a prizepool worth \$163,200. The final 63 players finished in the money. Full results are available on WSOP.com.

The tournament began at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 16. The final day began at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18, and the last hand was dealt around 12:30 a.m.

After this event, Jerry Rushing takes the early lead in the Casino Champion race. The player who accumulates the most overall points during the 12 ring events at the Hard Rock Tulsa earns the title of Casino Champion and receives automatic entry into the WSOP Global Casino Championship. Additionally, all players who cash in ring events earn points that apply toward the season-long race to claim one of the limited at-large bids. Rushing has 50 points from his victory in the Monster Stack. More information on the points system is available on WSOP.com.

Here are the winners so far at the Hard Rock:

EVENT #1: \$365 No-Limit Hold'em Monster Stack ó Jerry Rushing bested a field of 544 players for \$34,280.

All rings at the Hard Rock Tulsa are furnished by Jostens, the official ring supplier of the 2016-17 WSOP Circuit season.

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